

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6215

BILL NUMBER: HB 1049

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 9, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Apr 8, 2003

SUBJECT: Waiver of Charges for Criminal Record Checks.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Frenz

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Skillman

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill exempts Area Agencies on Aging, community action agencies, hospice programs, and community mental health centers from paying a fee to obtain limited criminal history records.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) Upon request for a limited criminal history record by appropriate entities, the Indiana State Police Department charges \$7 for each limited criminal history check. This bill would make all Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), community action agencies, hospice programs, and community mental health centers exempt from paying this fee. The exact number of limited criminal history checks requested from the Department by the AAAs is unknown, however, the Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging reports that 11 of the 16 AAAs made 739 requests in 2001 to various sources, which include the State Police, local police, private firms, and an online agency.

It also is unknown how many limited criminal history checks are requested by community action agencies or hospice programs. According to the State Department of Health, there are approximately 76 hospice programs licensed in Indiana, and according to the Family and Social Services Administration, there are approximately 23 community action agencies. Current statute provides that all employees and volunteers of hospice programs must have a limited criminal history check.

Of the 30 community mental health centers across the state, approximately 22%, or 1,650, of their 7,500 employees turn over each year. Criminal history checks must be made on each new employee, and certain positions require additional checks. The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers estimates the 30 centers make approximately 2,200 requests each year, roughly worth \$15,400.

The Department would experience a decrease in revenue if the AAAs, community action agencies, hospice programs, and community mental health centers that requested limited criminal history checks from the Department are no longer required to pay the fee. For FY 2002, the Department received \$1,504,334 in criminal history check revenue and processed more than 265,000 criminal history checks in CY 2001.

The fiscal impact of this bill is dependent on the number of requests received by the Department from the AAAs, community action agencies, hospice programs, and community mental health centers.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana State Police Department.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Melissa Durr, Executive Director, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging, (317)202-0500; Indiana State Police Department; Indiana State Department of Health, www.in.gov/isdh/regsvcs/acc; Family and Social Services Administration, www.in.gov/fssa/families/housing. James Jones, Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc. (317) 684-3684.

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